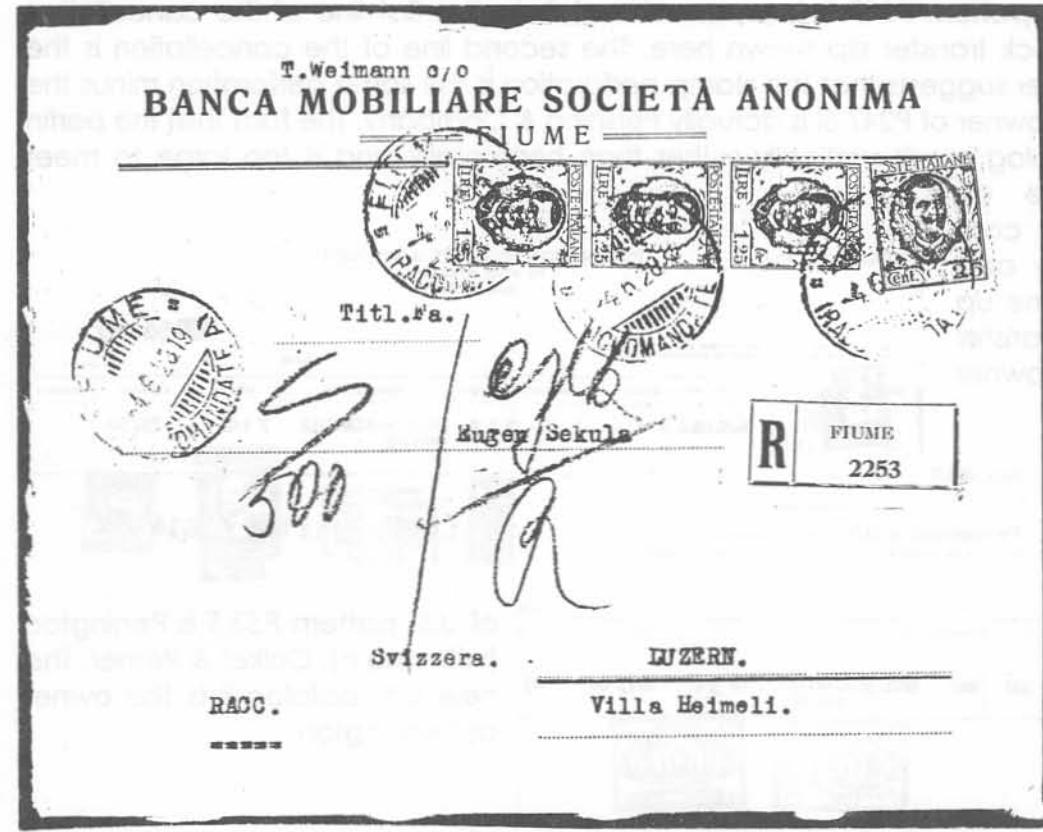


Fiume (now the Croatian city of Rijeka) was claimed by both Italy and Yugoslavia at the end of World War I. While the squabbling was going on, the Italian poet Gabriele d'Annunzio and a private "army" marched into the city and d'Annunzio proclaimed himself "commandant" of Fiume. His command was short-lived, however, and Fiume was declared a "free state," a status it continued to hold until 1924 when Mussolini convinced Yugoslavia to recognize the city as Italian. The city reverted to Yugoslavia at the end of World War II.



The registered cover shown here was mailed on June 4, 1928, by a staff member of the Banca Mobiliare in Fiume, using the B.M. pattern (Fiume A2 in the World Perfins Catalog) on Italian stamps. The letter arrived in Trieste on June 5 and was backstamped in Lucerne, Switzerland, on June 6. The addressee, Eugen Sekula, is reportedly a well-known Swiss stamp dealer.

From the collection
of the editor.